

SUMMARY

COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION ADOPTING A SPECIAL MEASURE CONSISTING IN THE EUROPEAN UNION'S 2019 CONTRIBUTION TO THE EUROPEAN UNION REGIONAL TRUST FUND IN RESPONSE TO THE SYRIAN CRISIS, TO BE FINANCED FROM THE GENERAL BUDGET OF THE UNION

1. IDENTIFICATION

Budget heading	22.040103 Middle-East Multi-sector
Total cost	EUR 165,240,000 of EU contribution of the 2019 Neighbourhood South allocations.
Legal basis	Regulation (EU) No 232/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2014 establishing a European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI)

2. REGIONAL BACKGROUND

On 10 December 2014, a Commission Decision¹ for the establishment of the European Union Regional Trust Fund in Response to the Syrian crisis, (the 'Trust Fund') was adopted for a duration of 60 months. To widen the scope of the Trust Fund, that Decision was amended on 21 December 2015.² The primary objective of the Trust Fund is to provide a coherent and reinforced aid response to the Syrian and Iraqi crises and the massive displacement, resulting from them on a multi-country scale. In pursuit of this objective, the Trust Fund shall address the needs of three groups: refugees, internally displaced persons, and returnees, and provide assistance to the communities and the administrations in which those groups find themselves, as regards resilience and early recovery. The Trust Fund will thus focus on current priority needs and may be mobilised for reconstruction and state-building needs in a future post-conflict scenario once conditions for a credible transition are met. Assistance inside Syria and Iraq will be considered taking into account, and avoiding overlap with, the actions of other existing international funding instruments. Assistance under the Trust Fund will be complementary to Union humanitarian assistance on the basis of Council Regulation (EC) No 1257/96 of 20 June 1996 concerning humanitarian aid.

3. SUMMARY OF THE ACTION

Since the establishment of the Trust Fund, the Union adopted a regional strategy for Syria and Iraq as well as for reacting to the ISIL/Da'esh threat³, which should guide the Trust Fund's first years of operations, as referenced in the strategic orientation document for the Trust Fund adopted by the first Trust Fund board held on 29 May 2015. Now in its ninth year, the Syrian crisis continues to have dramatic consequences on neighbouring countries' economies, social services and infrastructure, notably due to an influx of more than 5 million Syrian refugees in

¹ Commission Decision of 10 December 2014 on the establishment of a European Union Regional Trust Fund in response to the Syrian crisis (C(2014) 9615 final).

² Commission Decision of 21 December 2015 amending Decision C(2014)9615 final on the establishment of a European Union Regional Trust Fund in response to the Syrians crisis, C(2015) 9691 final.

³ Council Conclusions 7267/15 of 16 March 2015 and joint communication JOIN(2015) 2 final.

the region to date. The unprecedented magnitude of the crisis requires an increased Union financial effort to ease the pressure on the overstretched hosting countries in the region.

The Trust Fund will continue to finance activities in the countries affected by the consequences of the Syrian crisis, namely Lebanon, Jordan, Turkey, Iraq, Egypt, and in the wider region (Western Balkans and Armenia). The Trust Fund's scope was amended to also cover support to internally displaced persons (IDP's) in Iraq fleeing from the interlinked Syria/Iraq/Da'esh crisis, to provide flexibility to support affected countries also with hosting non-Syrian refugees, and to provide support in the Western Balkans to non-EU countries affected by the refugee crisis.

The key priorities of the Trust Fund are:

1. Promoting educational, protection and engagement opportunities for children and young people in line with the No Lost Generation initiative.
2. Reducing the pressure on countries hosting refugees by investing in livelihoods and social cohesion and supporting them in providing access to jobs and education that will benefit both refugees and host communities.
3. Based on Joint Humanitarian-Development Frameworks developed for Lebanon and Jordan, sustaining support in areas such as social protection, socio-economic opportunities, health, WASH, basic assistance, and education in emergencies towards structural and longer-term responses to address the protracted needs of refugees and vulnerable host communities.

In addition, the Trust Fund now supports other important development sectors, including municipal services and local infrastructure in most affected host communities.

1. COST AND FINANCING

22 04 01 03 Middle East — Multi-sector	
ENI contribution 2019	EUR 165,240,000
Total contribution to the European Union Regional Trust Fund	EUR 165,240,000